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Examples

Examples of specifications and prices are:

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56000 bps Modem
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Worldbook, FIFA 99

£880 inc VAT

As you can see from the prices on the left, there are a wide range of computers available from a number of suppliers.

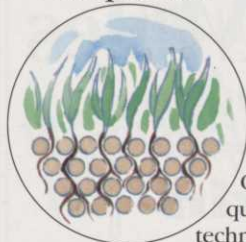
I have tried to give an idea of how computer technology has advanced in the past two years. Rereading this article and those produced in 1997 show that progress has been rapid in terms of hardware and software and that prices have tumbled. However, computers are not easy to handle, they need you to understand a special language and to have an ability to type. Voice recognition is, already available on some systems and is being introduced into quality cars and aircraft. What the next two years may bring is any body's guess. If you know what the future holds then please let me know and we can both make our fortunes. For further advice on hardware, software and training please contact Ken Richardson at BIGGA HQ.



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Thank you

Could you please express our sincere thanks to Toro for the generous prize both Paul (Shelley) and I received having won the runners-up places at the Toro Student of the Year Awards last year.



STUDENT OF THE YEAR

We both enjoyed a full week at BTME, courtesy of Toro/BIGGA, which included valuable placements on the workshop programme and full participation during the seminars.

It was a fantastic week, both educationally and socially, and we both made many new friends.

Steven Myers
 Bridge of Cally, Perthshire

Training responsibilities

There is no doubt that over the past 25 years greenkeeping has made great strides in course management, environmental management and greenkeeper training, with the introduction of City & Guilds phase 1, 2 and 3, and the HND, HNC courses and now with the National Vocational Qualifications being pushed by The Government.

It was with great regret that I read the press release from the EGU in the January issue of Greenkeeper International. I am sure that some members of the golfing fraternity do not understand the present greenkeeper training that is offered at the various colleges around the country.

I know that there are one or two greenkeepers that have gained qualifications by working at their golf clubs but this does not mean that their education is lacking in any way, everyone is working towards a nationally recognised standard and all have to be assessed by work based assessors with the D32 and D33 qualifications, who in turn had

to work for the qualification through the GTC or the colleges.

Long gone are the days of touching ones forelock on bended knee as members pass by. Golf clubs are demanding higher standards of their staff both inside and out and in return, the staff demand better training and conditions. I do not say that the present training is perfect, but everything must have a beginning, and the NVQ system has given our industry a very good start.

With any training six points should be worked towards:

1. Identify learning needs of your trainee;
2. Design training sessions for your trainee;
3. Teach training sessions;
4. Assessing trainees;
5. Evaluate training sessions you taught;
6. Evaluate and develop your own practice.

While all points are very important, points 5 and 6 are to me, key elements, by evaluating the training sessions you can improve the sessions and the information that you are imparting, then by evaluating your own skills and practice you can

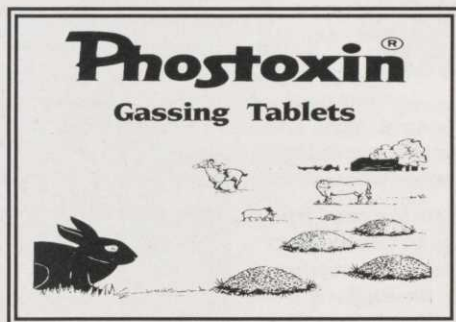
improve your teaching ability. In short from identifying learners needs through to evaluating your own practice it is possible to move full circle allowing training to progress.

I do not think that our industry needs another set of qualifications. The NVQ awards will progress and improve, as will the training and the trainees. We have a nationally recognised set of standards and we should all be working towards the same goal, and with the help of the GTC, City & Guilds, BIGGA and other affiliated bodies, we can make the present training programme work. It is every course manager's duty to improve his abilities and those of his staff by attending colleges and seminars throughout their careers and it is the Golf Club's duty to provide time and money for training of all its staff.

Ian Willett
 Course Manager, Thorpeness Golf Club & Hotel Ltd

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Winners v Losers

The following appears on the Mess Room Wall of Loch Lomond Golf Club. The sentiments are very similar to the Mountain and Valley people whom Frank Dick talked about during his magnificent Keynote Speech at BTME99.

Winners v Losers

When a winner makes a mistake he says, "I was wrong."
 When a loser makes a mistake, he says, "It wasn't my fault."

A winner works harder than a loser and has more time;
 A loser is always too busy to do what is necessary.

A winner goes through a problem;
 A loser goes around it, and never gets past it.

A winner makes commitments
 A loser makes promises.

A winner says, "I'm good, but not as good as I ought to be,"
 A loser says, "I'm not as bad as a lot of people."

A winner listens;
 A loser just waits his turn to talk.

A winner respects those who are superior to him and tries to learn something from them;
 A loser resents those who are superior to him and tries to find a chink in their armour.

A winner feels responsible for more than his job;
 A loser says, "I only work here."

A winner says, "There ought to be a better way to do it"
 A loser says, "That's the way it's always been done here".

Turf Machinery Ltd

I would like to take this opportunity to inform readers of Greenkeeper International that Turf Machinery Ltd, Morrision House, 3A Monument Way, West Woking, Surrey, is in no way associated, or wish to be connected, with another company of the same name which is offering a similar service and targeting the same potential customers.

Gerald Brookes, Director, Turf Machinery Ltd

Help required?

I am writing to ask for some help in finding me a paid or unpaid position at a Golf Club in the UK. I have been fortunate enough to win a four week scholarship to the UK. Any help the Association could provide me would be most appreciated.

Stephen Heskett, Federal Golf Club Australia, 59 "Melrose Mews," Medley Street, Chifley, A.C.T. Australia, 2606. shesket@atrax.net.au

With regard to the Sandy McDivot article 'Sand Green Destruction' which was published in January this year, and the comments in last month's letters page, Sandy has read all of your comments, and will be giving his reply in next month's magazine.

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East

The new Chairman of the East Section is Stuart Greenwood, Course Manager of North Berwick Golf Club, Stuart has been the Vice Chairman for the last two years and now takes over as Chairman from Jimmy Neilson.

Stuart has got some very good ideas for the future which he has already put into place, so all the best to you Stuart as Chairman of the section.

The Vice Chairman is Tom Murray, Course Manager Ratho Park Golf Club, not as previously printed in the January magazine that Tom Murray was the Chairman, but he will be Chairman in two year's time. So apologies to Stuart for any inconvenience caused by this last article.

Chairman S. Greenwood, Home/Fax: 01620 89 5074; Work: 01620 89 3765; E-mail: Stuart.Greenwood@btinternet.com; Vice Chairman T. Murray, Home: 0131 333 1403; Work: 0131 333 4126; Secretary/Treasurer S. Dixon, Home: 0131 660 3965,

Work: 0131 443 0235; Past Chairman J. Neilson, Home: 0131 538 0748

Match & Handicap Convener C. Yeaman, Home: 01620 842 037, Work/Fax 0131 445 7165; G. Wood, Home: 01368 863210; I. Bell Home: 01968 676143, Work: 01968 678031; G. Trotter, Home: 01968 679348, Work: 01968 678031; Social Convener S. Crawford, Home: 01620 89 3103, Work: 01620 89 3765; C. Pennycook, Home: 0131 654 2913; S. Townsend, Home: 01506 824397; Education Convener A. Forrest Home: 01875 813 670, Work/Fax: 0131 445 7165; I. Bell; Magazine C. Yeaman

Well, we are only a few weeks from the new season, so hopefully we will receive some good weather! Since my last article in this prestigious magazine, I have attended the BTME at Harrogate in January, which seems to improve year by year, which can only be attributed to everyone at BIGGA HOUSE. Well done everyone for making this an immensely enjoyable show and conference. It was good to see an even bigger turnout of Scottish Greenkeepers than at last year's conference, so keep the invasion of Harrogate on your agenda for next year - as it is said that an even bigger and better show will be on offer for the Millennium. It was good to meet old friends and make new ones in what is one of the most important weeks of the year. Well done to Peter Boyd for organising the Scottish trip - the hotel was excellent!

Affiliation with BIGGA is always desirable, but has Craig Pennycook taken it too far? With a tattoo of the logo on his body - or is this a new uni-

form requirement? Picture to follow later, once I have had it developed.

At our last committee meeting the final touches were put to our fixture card for 1999 - full details of outings, visits, social events etc., will be with you in the next few weeks. We have a visit to the Stewarts Top Dressing and Kelpie Plant in Dalkeith on 17 March. Hope we have a good turnout as we know that this will be an interesting day out.

We played the West Section in an eleven-a-side football match at the beginning of January on the astro turf at Almondvale Stadium Livingston. Thanks very much to Willie Blair, Stadium Manager, for all the organising of the pitch. A great game was had by all but unfortunately we were beaten 11-1. Even the goalkeeper, Brian Hillen, got in on the act by scoring a penalty near the end of the match. Because not all of our players turned up we had to borrow two players from the West Section, and guess who scored our only goal? Yes, you've guessed it, one of the West Section lads. Thanks boys, at least somebody could score. We hope for a better performance in the return match in Glasgow, when we will hopefully have a much stronger team and gain some revenge for the thrashing that was inflicted upon us. Well, we can dream! If any other sections wish to challenge, then give me a call. Sorry, there's not a lot this month but everything seems to be quiet. If anybody has anything that would be of interest for the magazine, please get in touch (01620 842037 - home) or (0131 445 7165 - work).

Chris Yeaman.

PS. Late News - People on the move. Andrew Forrest, my Deputy Course Manager at Swanston Golf Club is leaving to take up a position in the new golf course which is under construction at Oatridge College. He will be the Head Greenkeeper of this new course and takes up this position on 1 March 1999. Andrew has been at Swanston for nine years, where he started as an apprentice and worked his way up to his present position. Although we are sad to lose him we would like to wish him all the best for the future. The section would also like to wish him all the best in his new position. We would also like to wish the college all the best in their new adventure.

PPS. Andy, if you need any help or advice, call Stevie or Craig because I will be busy!

Chris Yeaman

North

Another healthy batch of new members for the Section this month. We welcome the following and hope to meet them during the course of the year. From Reay GC come Roger Martin and Michael Grant; James Smart from Inverurie; Alistair Macleod, from Stornoway; Andre Aitken from Newtonmore; Arran Mackenzie from Abernethy; Alan Black and Craig Watson from Royal Dornoch; Steven Herd from Strathlene and last, but not

least, Craig Beedie from Fraserburgh. At this rate membership could top 300 in our 50th year.

BTME, what can I say. Another excellent week spent learning and meeting friends old and new. I was delighted to see so many North members down this year, the most ever I am sure. It was good to meet up with Graham Scott formerly of Brora and hear he is working in the North of England again, this time on the trade side of the business.

I was not struggling around stiff for a couple of days this year as the Sunday night football was replaced by ten pin bowling, a much gentler sport, good fun all the same. It was great seeing Steve Cadenelli and Rich Hurley over from USA and meeting Linda and Nancy again who accompanied them.

The Keynote Speaker was one of the best so far and although Showaddywaddy were not one of my all time great bands I thought they went down brilliant and everybody seemed to be having a ball, I didn't realise what a mover our Chairman is!

I am glad that I put my entry for the new BIGGA golf championship at Carden Park in early as entries closed at the end of January, so the only way to be there now is by playing in the Spring outing and winning a free place. The remaining 56 places are up for grabs at Section outings, the best scratch and nett score at Inverness in May will win a place. So be there. There may be a chance of one or two on the waiting list getting in as people that have entered might win a place through their Section (like me!).

IA Macleod.

Ayrshire

Well that's Harrogate past for another year. It just seems to be getting bigger and busier every year. It was good to see many faces from our Section and the ones I didn't see I guess they must have seen me first.

I attended the irrigation workshop and I must say the workshop standard was as usual of an exceptionally high standard which is a tribute to our Education Officer Ken Richardson and his colleagues.

The irrigation workshop was very informative and interesting for all the other delegates I spoke with, so a big thanks to David Halford, Secretary of the BTLIA, who delivered the workshop along with some other personnel from the irrigation industry.

At a recent committee meeting our golf events were planned for the forthcoming season. The Spring Outing is at Ballochmyle Golf Club on Thursday 6 May with the Autumn Outing at the Pines Golf Centre on Thursday 30 September. The Spring Outing will be the new National Tournament Qualifier: more details to follow in next month's notes. It is planned to try and arrange a summer doubles knock-out competition, the format to be a team with at least one BIGGA member partnered with another club greenkeeper or official. All entries will go into a draw and be played either home or away. If

there is sufficient interest, details will be finalised and the draw can be made at our Spring Outing. Contact Derek Wilson on 01294 276177 or any committee member to make your entry or state your interest.

We are trying to organise a fund raising cinema racing evening with gentlemen's entertainment, around May or June time. More details to follow, so why not start a staff kitty now to enjoy a good greenkeeper social evening supporting your Section. We are also investigating possibilities of organising a seminar/conference day in the Autumn: watch this space or let us know any of your own ideas before our next committee meeting on 19 April.

We are trying to trace any SIGGA or BIGGA trophies. If you have any or know of their whereabouts please let Derek Wilson know 01294 276177. Any news, let me know 01505 683278.

See you next month.
Iain Barr.

West of Scotland

Firstly, on behalf of the Committee I would like to thank Stuart Taylor for his efforts in writing the Section news for the past few years. "Well done Stuart you deserve a well earned break after that." However, as past Chairman we have not put him out to pasture just yet, Stuart has volunteered his services to continue organising the Section and inter Section football matches. So anyone interested should contact Stuart on 0141-942-5554.

The eleven-a-side football match against the East Section was played at Livingston on Sunday 10 January. A bright sunny afternoon with a severe frost on the pitch creating extremely difficult and trying conditions. Players had to avoid slipping and were continually watching the bounce off the surface. A good professional performance by the West Section, after loaning the East two players. The team for West was Brian Hillen, Sandy Brawley, Alistair Smith, Stuart Taylor, Gerry Bruen, Steven McGeachie, Kevin Mcquire, Brian Bolland, Peter Cowan and Ian Smith. The match turned out to be a very one sided affair, 6-0 up at half time a similar story was evident in the second half. Goal scorers were Steve McGeachie, Gerry Bruen, Peter Cowan, Brian Bolland and a penalty by Brian Hillen. A consolation goal in the second half was scored by Robert Hossack one of the West's loaned players. A very good day, very good result, excellent company and hospitality, thanks for the sandwiches after the game, next time should be a better game. Next on the list is Central Section so where is Andy O'Hara, look out we're on form!

Our thanks go to the HQ for arranging the Patron awards again, this year Brian Hillen and Charlie Goodall have been chosen to attend the annual BTME conference, a terrific opportunity to attend one of the most renowned venues of the calendar. I hope you had an excellent time down there. Unfortunately Charlie Goodall was

unable to attend Harrogate this year, instead recovering from surgery. Our commiserations go to you Charlie and we wish you a speedy recovery.

I was reliably informed by Cecil George that the BTME exhibition was an excellent event with some great company. It was requested that I mention that Bob Moffat and his wife were in attendance at the show and I believe that Cecil may even have had a dram or two with Bob! I was informed also that there was a problem with Harry Diamond's legs, while attempting to vacate the coach! Something to do with lack of blood flow possibly after remaining seated for several hours! Who knows? Anyway, this is an event that every greenkeeper should attend if only once, a truly memorable experience, where greenkeepers can meet up with old faces and forge new relationships with people sharing a mutual interest in this Grand Profession.

Other news now, a challenge match, between Head greenkeepers and Conveners, has been organised and will take place at Cawdor G.C. on Wednesday 31 March, entry forms will be in the post soon. The Spring outing is to be held at Bothwell Castle G.C. on Thursday 29 April, tee off at 11:30am, entry forms will be sent out shortly, so be sure and return the entry slips as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. We'll keep fingers crossed for some fine weather on the day.

On to education news now, Robert Hogarth reported that the last moderators' meeting held in December '98 produced a poor turn out with only 26 bodies in attendance.

He went on to say that the meeting was unsuccessful due to confusion from points being raised that clouded the main issue, and bore no relationship to the intended itinerary of the meeting. Another meeting will be organised and assessors will be notified as soon as arrangements are complete.

We extend a warm welcome to three new members this month, Robert Rees, Dalziel Park G&CC; Sean Ward, Douglas Park GC, and Colin Shanks, Bonnyton GC. We look forward to seeing you all at future Section events.

On a final note if anyone has any news of interest, ie promotions, births, deaths etc, please contact me on 0141 7761532 or M 07050 173080

Gavin Jarvis

Central

We are really moving on recruiting new members to the Section with 18 joining this month. Hopefully this trend will continue throughout the year. Those joining us are Callum Simpson, William Swan, Steven Howie and James Atherton from Lundin Golf Club; Neil Banner and Lloyd Stevenson from Alva Golf Club; David Simpson from Crieff Golf Club; Alexander Drummond from Callander Golf Club; Robert De Rose and Allan McCullough from Dunfermline Golf Club; Mathew Baird, Patrick O'Sullivan, Christian Kitching, Gordon McFadyen and Patrick Brennan from The Dukes

Course, St. Andrews; Scott Mackintosh, Gary Todd and Alan Russell from St Andrews Links Trust. Once again we extend a warm welcome to them all and look forward to meeting them at some of our events in the near future.

Continuing on the whereabouts of the Section's Past Chairmen, this month's five are as follows: 1986/7 - E. Small who was at Tulliallan GC and is still at Tulliallan GC. 1987/8 - J. Cameron, who was at Callander GC now unknown, can anybody help? 1988/9 - I. Ritchie who was at Ladybank GC now at Portmarnock GC. 1989/91 - W. Steele who was at Grangemouth GC, now at Golf Course Construction. 1991/3 - D. Peddie who was at Alloa GC, still at Alloa GC.

I met up with numerous former Section members during the BTME at Harrogate in January and Ross Wilson (formerly Kinross) and Ian Ritchie (formerly Ladybank) send their regards to all their friends in the Section.

I won't go on about the BTME as the only way to appreciate it is to be there.

The Spring Tournament is at Lundin Golf Club on Thursday 29 March so if you wish to compete in the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship at Carden Park, in Cheshire, in October you had better get your entry in fast as the only places left are those who qualify from the Section's Spring Tournament.

Your committee are looking at ways of raising funds for the Section, details of which should be with you very soon and it is hoped that everyone will support our efforts and not the usual half dozen or so whose efforts are really appreciated by the committee.

John Crawford.



Northern Region
Douglas Bell
Tel: 0151 431 0433

North East

On January 28 we had our first winter seminar at the City of Newcastle Golf Club, the subject was the history of John Deere from the beginning to the present day. Our thanks to Mr. Richard Charleton area sales manager and to Greenlay for sponsoring the evening.

Not a bad turnout as we had 25 greenkeepers attending from as far away as Whitley Bay and Slaley Hall, a bit disappointing that there was only one person from the Newcastle area but at least there were apologies from Whickham and Hallgarth lads. Let's hope we have a better turn out at Tyneside Golf Club.

Congratulations to Ian Hutton, of Slaley Hall, on his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Garesfield Golf Club, also to Geoff Mortimore moving from Haltwhistle to Hexham Golf Club.

Captain's Day is expected to be played at Garesfield in July probably the third or fourth week all persons will be notified.

Jimmy Richardson.

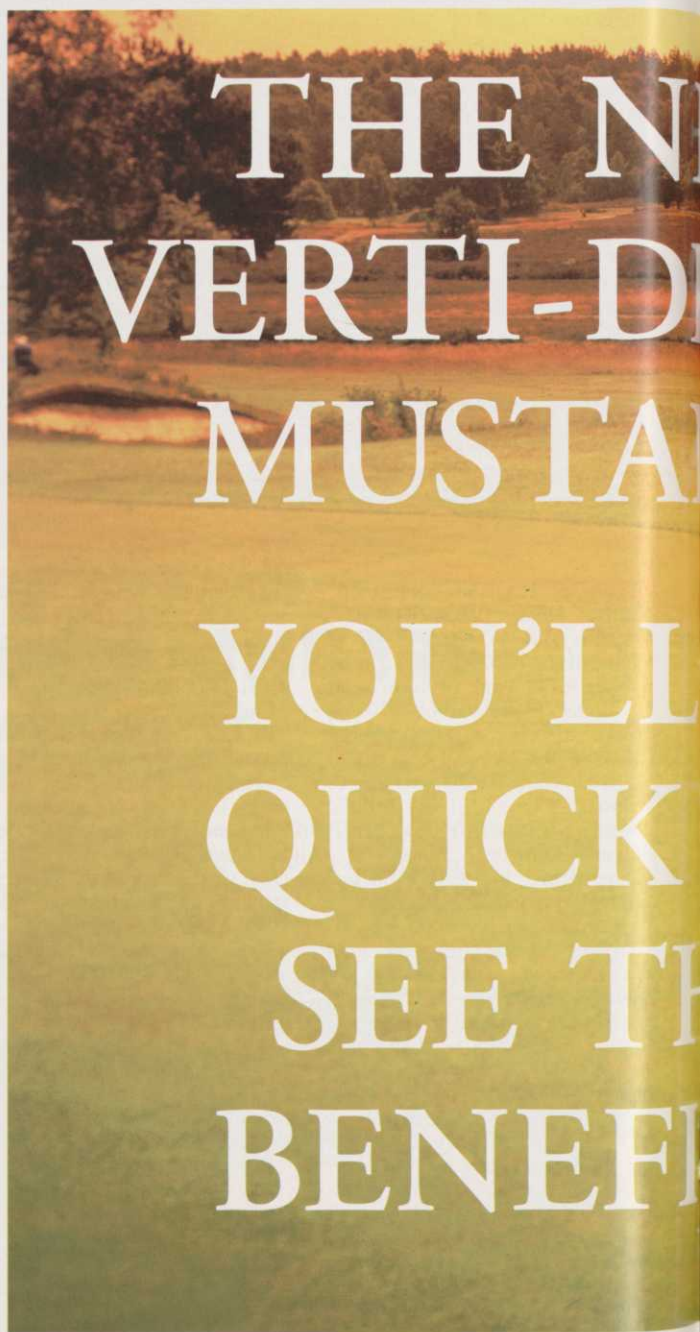
North West

Another BTME gone and another year passed, time seems to pass so quickly these days, (perhaps it's my age).

Anyway the show was once again great, and I hope those of you who managed to get there enjoyed it. This year it was bigger than ever, and I believe we reached record numbers.

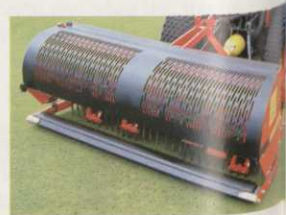
One of the stands that created a lot of interest was the Stylo, with a good selec-

tion of work and leisure wear. This workwear is good quality and reasonably priced and well worth looking at. I would like to see more golf clubs supplying their staff with good quality work wear, with a name tag on their overalls, so that members recognise the people looking after their course. Once again I must mention our HQ staff who did a great job, producing an exhibition second to none. By the time you read these notes you should



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all have received your fixture lists for the year, and an application form for the seminar at Mere Golf & Country Club. The seminar should be of interest to all of you, and possibly your Chairman of greens, so please support the section and attend the seminar on 23 March.

The annual match against North Wales is on Thursday 8 April and I require a team of 16 to win the GEM Shield, and bring it back to where it

belongs. Any members interested please contact me as soon as possible. The Spring Tournament will be played at Fairhaven Golf Club on Tuesday 20 April. Please send your applications plus a cheque for £15 to Bill Merritt, 225 Utting Avenue, Liverpool, L4 9RB. Tel 0151 284 4416. No applications will be accepted after Tuesday 13 April.

One member on the move is John Turner who is moving from Keswick

G.C. to Bramall Park G.C. John tells me that Keswick G.C. was closed a record number of days last year, due to the amount of rain we had. Hopefully he will be able to mow his fairways this year with a tractor with wheels instead of floats. We wish him and his family good luck. That's it for now. If any member has not received a fixture list please contact me on 0151 724 5412.

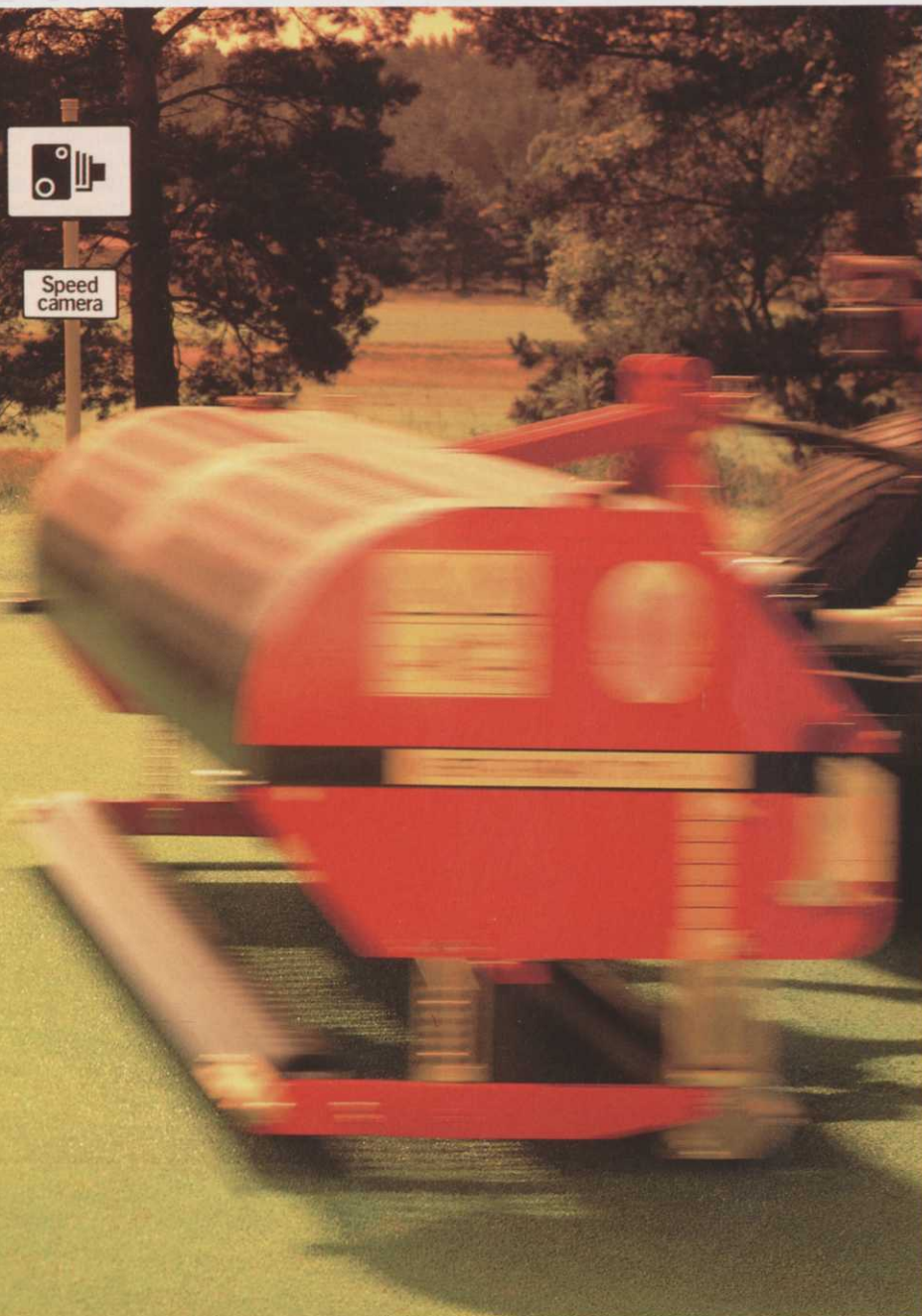
Bert Cross.

Sheffield

On 3 December we held our winter lecture at Rotherham Golf Club. Our thanks go to Mr David Truby, from Scotts Fertilisers, who gave a lecture on fertilisers, which was enjoyed by everyone present.

On 3 February we held our winter lecture at Sitwell Park Golf Club, who I would like to thank for letting us use their facilities while Rotherham was

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being painted. We had a very good turnout for the lectures.

The first lecture was given by David Stansfield, from PSD Agronomy who gave a very interesting lecture on Earthworms and their control. Our thanks go to David.

Our second lecture was given by Mr Frank Newberry, from Greenkeeper Training, who gave a very interesting lecture on "motivation". Frank's lecture was very different from our usual ones, but was very interesting and was enjoyed by everyone present, who I think may have gone home with a different view on things.

On the golfing scene the Section is running a knockout competition, which will be played as a fourball betterball. Teams will consist of two BIGGA members with a designated home course where courtesy will be given, there will be a maximum handicap of 18, there will be 3/4 allowance on all matches. Anyone who wants to play or wants more information should contact James Cooper Dunne on 0411 895852 or 0114 2830731.

J.V. Lax.

North Wales

It's the 2nd of February and the sun's shining, I was beginning to for-

get what it looked like. My members were starting to think we'd put in some permanent water features, the pro even enquired whether he could hire our dinghies. Still, these things are sent to try us.

BTME, excellent! I hope all of you that went on the coach enjoyed your day. I was there for three days, took in the seminars, sampled the local hospitality and generally soaked up the atmosphere. My club send me and my deputy on alternate years and even have it written into our contract and consider it excellent value, which it is. All of my staff attended the AGM and said it was a very rewarding experience. Try asking your clubs. You might be surprised and remember, you don't get it if you don't ask.

The annual North Wales v North West match is to be at North Wales GC Llandudno on 8 April. We require 16 players for this to enable us to keep the shield for another 12 months (sorry Bert). Please contact Gary Edwards on 01492 593646.

The spring meeting is to be held at Llanyrymch on 28 April which will also be the Charterhouse/Scotts National Championship qualifier to be held at Carden Park in October. Forms will be sent to everyone and must be returned by 12 April. Our

secretary, Gary, is in negotiations with a variety of clubs to hold our golf days. Some are completely new to our circuit, watch this space.

We have purchase a new computer for the section, which will make the running of the section easier and more efficient.

On the 10 March we are holding an afternoon seminar in the college on water management and the rudiments of water behaviour in the soil. I know that this might be too late in the magazine, however, all of you should have received notification in the post. If not, please let me know.

Again, anyone out there who wants to put on a day, half day or evening presentation, please let me know on 01824 710693, 01745 814931, 01745 816669 or 04108 96837 so we can arrange details and if you can't get me on any of those numbers, it means I have left the country.

We have had a large increase in membership to our Section this year and I feel that a lot of the credit must go to our Regional Administrator, Doug Bell. If you haven't met him yet, I'm sure you will. He is doing an excellent job. Thanks Doug.

New members since November are: Bryan Berry, James Haley, David Abbot, Mike Dimeloc, Stephen Williams, Martin Davenport, All

Vale Royal Abbey G.C., Mark Shaw, Alsager G.C., Robert Mathieson, Glyn Davis, Padeswood & Buckley G.C., Stephen Murphy, Alan Dowsey, Craig Kendal, Heowall G.C., Brett Coulton, Portal G & C C, Paul Barber, Chester G.C., Eurwyn Vaughan, Thomas McCulloch, Abergele G.C., Eyyen Owen, Ogdellan G.C. I wish you all a warm welcome to the Section. If I have missed anyone out, please let me know.

Finally, back to the BTME, The Welsh College raffled a tiger (the cuddly toy type) at Harrogate. The raffle was a great success and raised £146 for the Hope House Hospice in Oswestry. Nice one Graham. See you.

Dave Goodridge

Cleveland

Just like to say sorry for not getting the News Letter out for January, but I was laid low with that new 'flu. I would like to say thank you to all the greenkeepers and groundsmen for turning up for the Turfcare Quiz Night in December. The greenkeepers were beaten again. The groundsmen did not even bother bringing the trophy in. That's confidence for you.

I would also like to thank Terry

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Charlton, of Turfcare, for putting the free bus on to Harrogate and buying everybody a pint. Very much appreciated.

Short News Letter this month as I have not had any news. If you have anything at all to tell us, give me a ring or next month I will be forced to tell you about our bunker reshaping at Brancepeth G.C.

Kevin (Scoop)Heslop



Midland Region
Peter Larter
Tel: 01480 437507

East Midlands

This year's BTME again proved to be a highly enjoyable event. From visiting Trade stands, attending seminars, meeting old friends and listening to Showaddywaddy, all helped to make this a great week for everybody who attended. However as a Section we would still like to see more of our members supporting this fantastic event. At the AGM, Paddy McCarron was elected to the Association as a Life Member. Paddy has served the Association at Section, Region and National level with great professionalism, and he is

still involved with the Association through his work in the Midland's Region Greenkeepers' Support Line, and I am sure all members will agree that he fully deserves this honour.

This year's golf fixture list is now complete, and all members should receive their entry forms, four or five weeks before the date of each tournament. If you do not receive a form please contact me and I will gladly post a copy to you. When returning your entry form please ensure that the correct payment is made and it is returned before the closing date, which is usually two weeks prior to the competition.

Spring Tournament: Longcliffe G.C. May 13. Sponsor: E.T.Breakwells; East of England: Ramsdale Park G.C. August 18. Sponsor: Chandlers; Autumn Tournament: Erewash Valley G.C. September 6. Sponsor: Banks Amenity Products; AGM Tournament: Radcliffe-on-Trent G.C. November 3. Sponsor: Vitax Ltd; Christmas Tournament: Glen Gorse G.C. December 9. Sponsor: Rigby Taylor.

Finally if any member is interested in a visit to Aldwark in Mid-April, which will include an overnight stay in a local hotel, and either a game of golf or a lecture, could you please let

me know as soon as possible. This will require sufficient numbers before anything can be finalised. So it is hoped that as many members as possible will support the event, to help make it successful.

Antony Bindley

Midland

I hope the majority of you were able to get to the BTME and experience what a great event this really is. Every year it just gets better and great credit must be given to the staff at BIGGA and everyone who is involved in the exhibition for making it the most prestigious week for greenkeepers in the year and something to look forward to year after year.

There has been some movement in the Section which I will now report on. Andrew Smith has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Shirley Golf Club and John Ganley has taken over from Andrew at North Warwickshire. Good luck to you both in your new positions.

If there are any of you that are interested in doing the NVQ Level 3 and cannot give the time during the day, the Warwickshire College at Morton Morrel are looking to run an evening class, depending on the interest shown. So if you are inter-

ested, please contact the college or Andrew Smith on 01676 530114. Finally I would like to introduce you to some new members of the Section - Dean Waldron, Sean Smith, Duncon Underhill and Lee Hitchman.

Jonathan Wood.

Mid Anglia

A visit has been arranged to the new course at Brocket Hall on 30 March. All are welcome to attend; we'll be meeting at the Greenkeeper's compound at 1.00 pm.

The entry fee for our three golf tournaments (Spring, Summer and Autumn) has remained at £20.00 for the last four years. Due to increased costs, however, this will rise to £23.00 from April 1999.

The Spring qualifier next month will be a thirty-six hole medal event, with the overall winner and best gross score going forward to the newly formatted National Tournament. Details of this have been sent to all members via the magazine.

The Lodgeway four ball tournament, which goes ahead again this year, will be drawn at the Spring Tournament to be held at Aldwickbury Golf Club next month



on 28 April. Finally, I would like to welcome the following new members from Mentmore Golf Club: John Frampton, Bill Lewis, Jon Underwood, Harry Odone, Leigh Welford, Danny James.

Paul Lockett.

Bucks, Berks Oxon

At last the golfing season is upon us, time to dust all the cobwebs of the clubs and give them a good airing. It always amazes me how many hardy souls continue to thrash it round during the bleak winter months regardless of the weather. My own guideline for getting the clubs out is our Turfcat, strange but true! If I can cut rough in short-sleeves without getting goose bumps then it must be warm enough to play golf!

Simple system, no need to refer to teletext, works every time, except that is when we hold a greenkeepers golf day because it always rains! Getting down to more serious business, the first committee meeting of the year was held at the Springs Golf Club on 3 February. This proved a lively affair with some good healthy discussions taking place as to the forthcoming season. Thanks to Ross and Robert for their contribution in what was their first meeting. The main topic discussed was the forthcoming golf fixtures. The venues are as follows: Spring - Beaconsfield G.C., Summer - Donnington Grove G.C., Autumn - The Springs G.C., Winter - Lambourne G.C.

Confirmation of the above venues, along with fixed dates will be sent out with the first entry forms at the end of March.

Please make sure that all membership fees are paid as the mailing list comes direct from H.Q. so any lapsed membership will result in you being taken off the list. It did happen a couple of times last year so please take care.

With regards to payment for golf days, if you wish to play in any event then you must pay before the date, this allows us to bank the cheques prior to receiving the invoice, thus avoiding any bank charges. Finally the Rigby Taylor four ball Knockout is to be run throughout this season. I hope to have more details for next month's article. If you require any information on the above please give me a ring on 01491 578147.

Lindsay T Anderson



South West
and South Wales
Paula Humphries
Tel: 01363 82777

Over 100 greenkeepers including eight from the Channel Islands attended BTME this year. With six pick-ups, two coaches and three hotel destinations it was a bit of a nightmare to organise. However,

everyone seemed to be on the coaches and end up with a bed. More than that they all arrived at their locations on the correct coach and with the correct suitcase. How about that!

The South West & South Wales Region is indebted to Amenity Technology for sponsoring the coaches to Harrogate and also for the excellent food and entertainment provided for the boys on the Wednesday evening. Everyone had a wonderful time.

Thanks also are due to Rigby Taylor who part sponsored five greenkeepers over from the Channel Islands. For many of them it was their first visit to the mainland and they thought BTME was just wonderful. It was great to have them with us.

Paula Humphries

South Wales

January's meeting with Richard Dixon of the Welsh Golfing Union with more than 30 attending was very informal but very interesting on course preparation and the rules of golf. Thank you for your time Richard and I am sure every one who attended would agree.

Last month I said I would report on the BTME. Once again it was an excellent exhibition with a good attendance from our Section. The feedback is that everybody enjoyed their trip to Harrogate, and that congratulations must go to the organisers for the Exhibition and Educational Seminars and to anyone who assisted in the show that gets better each year.

This month's meeting to be held at Pencoed College on Wednesday 17 by Derek Edwards, of Inturf, his presentation will be on the turf for the new National Stadium Cardiff.

Our Golf days will be starting shortly and we, being members of BIGGA, would look like a professional body that we are, if all golfers wore BIGGA shirts and would be encouraged to do so at a low cost of £14.95 as shown in the new collection of clothing in the last month's magazine.

Congratulations is in order for Tony Bull with his new official title of Head Greenkeeper of Clyne Golf Club. Also to Henry Fry for 1st prize in his local Horticulture Competition. Well done Henry.

Westurf is only a month away at its new location at Westpoint in Exeter on 27 April. The new location means we are undercover although there will be outside demonstrations. Also the new look Westurf brings Seminars and Entertainment. It's going to be bigger and better so don't miss it or miss out. A coach will be running from S. Wales to Exeter for delegates and their wives at a nominal charge. Contact Peter Lacey for details and to reserve a seat.

Richard Hatcher (01656) 742761.

Devon & Cornwall

The first event of the New Year for many members was to attend this year's BTME held as always in the lovely town of Harrogate. The Region's now annual trip to the show took on a new look as the trip was sponsored by Amenity Technology & Westurf which allowed the Region to offer an unbelievable price of only £99 per person. With this it was nice to see so many of the Section's membership taking advantage of the package.

The show itself just seems to get better each year and is now one that you can't afford to miss. On Wednesday night, Amenity Technology put on an evening for delegates which was simply buzzing with atmosphere. Before attending, a few of us visited the Kubota evening get-together, which was also superb, especially for John Mitchell as he won second prize in the raffle, a colour TV.

Congratulations must go to our Regional Administrator, Paula, and Stuart Ashworthy, of Amenity Technology, who had organised the superb trip. Also I would like to congratulate all the staff at head office for all their hard work in organising BTME.

The Section's first meeting of the year was sponsored by Barenbrug Seeds and held at Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club on Wednesday 27 January. The day started with golfing members competing over the clubs links course for prizes kindly donated by Barenbrug UK, our non-golfing members were treated to a morning of looking at and operating the latest computer software which included the excellent Quest maintenance management programme presented by Guy Coleman, of Wessex Software, and the RainBird computer software covering irrigation systems to irrigation design which was presented by Mark, from RainBird, and Roger Davey, of Ocmis Irrigation.

After operating the software our non-golfing members were treated to a course walk by yours truly before returning for lunch.

After an excellent lunch, members were again invited to try out the computer software before our company and prize presentation by Darren Wilding, of Barenbrug UK. 1. Alan Gawman, St Mellion, 39 pts; 2. Gary Foster, Tavistock, 38pts; 3. Terry Farkins, Dartmouth, 37pts on back 9.

The Section would like to thank Guy, Mark and Roger for setting up their excellent software programmes for our educational presentation. Also, our thanks must go to the day's sponsors, Darren and Barenbrug, for without them this meeting would not have taken place.

Thanks also to my crew of Jason, Polly and Greg who always work so hard to present the course at its best. Last but not least our thanks must

go to Bude & North Cornwall Golf Club for allowing the Section use of their facilities and all their staff who made our day run so smoothly. Our last meeting of the winter programme will be the Rhône Poulenc & Supaturf meeting which will be held at Dartmouth Golf & Country Club on Wednesday 24 March. The day will start as always with golfing members competing for the Supaturf Trophy (Head Greenkeepers) and Rhône Poulenc Trophy (Assistants). This event will also be the Section qualifier for the Charterhouse/Scotts Golf Championship with the best net and gross score going through.

Westurf is now just around the corner. With the show moving to Westpoint at Exeter this must be a show you can't afford to miss, so let's see a big attendance from the section and support the Region so the region can support you.

Remember that Westurf is now at Westpoint, Exeter on Tuesday, April 27.

Richard Whyman.

South West

The "Cream" of the South West greenkeeping industry once again made the annual pilgrimage to the Mecca of Harrogate for the 1999 BTME. This superbly organised event produced a mind boggling amount of information for members to digest including the very latest theories and technological advances that will give you the perfect greens.

There was also a mind boggling amount of fine foods and beverages consumed which helped members keep their minds focused on all of the knowledge being passed around. Yet again, all the speakers at the seminars were highly entertaining and were greatly appreciated. Paula Humphries is given many thanks for all of her hard work in organising the South West Region's trip to Harrogate. A great week was clearly had by all those who attended.

Meanwhile, the rest of us who weren't allowed to taste the high life of Harrogate, carried on trudging through the wind and rain in a desperate bid to get the course into a playable state. Alas the rain won again with the month of January being one of the wettest on record. However, it appears that spring has now arrived and the time has come to put away the darts board and start greasing up the mowers ready for another grass cutting frenzy.

The next golfing event on the calendar is the Spring tournament which will be held at Wells G.C., on 22 April. The Charterhouse/Scotts Golf Championship will take place in October this year and there will be two free places available for members from this Section. The qualifiers will be selected from a tournament later on in the year, probably the Summer Tournament.

Also coming up is the Westurf Exhibition being held at Westpoint